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CASE OF FRACTURE OF THE FIFTH CERVICAL VERTEBRA, WITH-  
OUT DISPLACEMENT OF THE BODY OF THE BONE.

BY HIRAM A. PROUT, M.D., OF TUSCUMBIA, ALABAMA.

ABRAHAM, a man of color, æt. 30—while wrestling with a companion, was thrown suddenly upon his neck, by having his feet tripped from the ground. The fall was immediately succeeded by a loss of motion and feeling in the shoulders and arms, in the walls of the chest and abdomen, and in the lower extremities. Though there was an entire loss of sensibility to the impression of external agents, he was subject to occasional and severe pains in all the paralyzed parts, and to constant and lancinating pains in his arms and shoulders. There was no external mark of injury over the spinous process of the fifth cervical vertebra; but a distinct crepitus was perceptible on pressure. His breathing was short and extremely laborious, being carried on alone by the action of the diaphragm. The muscles of the head and neck, above the origin of the phrenic nerve, maintained their integrity. His pulse and the temperature of his body were unaffected, until near the close of life; which occurred within 48 hours after the accident. On the day subsequent to the injury, he was affected with retention of urine and great abdominal distension; notwithstanding the peristaltic action of the bowels had been excited and met with no resistance from the paralyzed sphincter. There was no distention of the corpora cavernosa.

*Dissection.*—The rim or arch of the fifth cervical vertebra was fractured in three places, and the spinous process, with a part of the arch, was driven in upon the spinal marrow. There was a slight effusion of blood, between the sheath of the spinal marrow and the bone, and a considerable effusion between it and the substance of the cord. There was no material lesion of the medulla, or of its investing membranes; and the body of the bone was not fractured or displaced, at the intervertebral junction.

*Observations.*—In this case, the diagnosis was readily established, by the accompanying symptoms and a reference to the physiological relations of the parts. The absence of the regular elevation and depression of the ribs, which attend normal respiration; the increased action of the diaphragm; and the want of contraction in the abdominal muscles, all referred the seat of injury to some point below the origin of the fourth pair of cervical nerves; whilst the entire loss of motion and sensibility to external impressions, in the arms and shoulders, clearly indi-

cated that the fifth vertebra of the neck was the seat of fracture or displacement, or perhaps of both; as one seldom occurs without being accompanied by the other. This latter diagnostic distinction is based on an observation offered by Sir Astley Cooper, when speaking of accidental lesions of the spine, where he remarks, "If a fracture occurs at the sixth or seventh cervical vertebra, the patient has some feeling and powers of motion" in the arms; "but if at the fifth, little or none." It seems that the same distinction had been noticed by Galen, who, in treating of palsies from other causes, observes that when the origins of the sixth and seventh pairs of nerves are involved in disease, some sensibility and voluntary motion are still manifest in the shoulders and arms.

It is, unnecessary to say, that the truth of these positions and the diagnosis based upon them were amply confirmed by the appearances on dissection.

The constant and intense pain, in the muscles supplied by the palsied nerves, which resulted no doubt from a mere perversion of function, is a symptom of fracture or displacement of the vertebra, which Sir Astley Cooper seems to have overlooked, in his very excellent and accurate account of the phenomena accompanying injuries of the spine. That this symptom is one of not unfrequent occurrence, in palsies originating from spinal lesions, may, we think, be inferred from the assertions of writers on palsies in general.

Dr. Cooke, in his work on Nervous Diseases, observes, that pain in the muscles is not an uncommon symptom of palsy, particularly of the shoulders and arms.

Dr. Abercrombie, in his observations on inflammation of the hemispheres of the brain, remarks that in palsies connected with these inflammatory affections, there is sometimes, especially in the early stages, violent pains in the affected limbs. In the case under review, the pain was evidently not the result of inflammatory action, as it immediately succeeded the accident, and was consequently manifested before inflammatory action could establish itself in the injured part.

The observations of these authors satisfactorily confirm the fact that palsies, resulting from diseased action in the brain and spinal marrow, are sometimes accompanied by severe pain the paralyzed limbs: while the cases, recorded in the *Lecons Orales* of M. Dupuytren, showing that rheumatic pains and stiffness of the neck have been mistaken for luxations of the vertebra, render it certain that the same symptom, occasionally at least, attends palsy from accidental injury of the spinal marrow. We do not insist on this symptom as being important to the accuracy of diagnosis in these lesions, but as interesting only, so far, as it may contribute to a knowledge of the phenomena which are manifested in traumatic palsy; and of the physiological relations of the body in general.

In the case recorded by Lallemand, as quoted by Dr. Abercrombie, the pain was confined to the nerves of touch: in the case under consideration there was no morbid external sensibility; the pain was more deeply seated, and seemed to affect the nerves, which supply the muscles of animal life. The cause of this difference, we shall not attempt

to define, as we cannot expect to arrive at certain conclusions, with our present imperfect knowledge of the intimate relations of the nervous system.

In the case before us, the distinction, so correctly established by Bichat, between the nervous functions of animal and organic life, was beautifully illustrated. The heart, the arteries and the veins, the stomach and the bowels, all remained unimpaired in any appreciable degree, until an extension of the lesion of the spinal marrow destroyed the function of the phrenic nerves, and consequently, completely suspended the imperfect respiration; now maintained alone by the action of the diaphragm. Had the phrenic nerves remained unaffected, it is obvious that the patient might have survived several days longer. The failure of the vital functions did not proceed, so much from a want of organic action in the different parts of the body, as from an entire loss of function in the system of animal life.

The want of contraction of the coats of the bladder and the relaxation of the sphincter ani, manifested, still farther, the correctness of the distinction between the organic and animal functions of the body.

We could dilate on this subject, but deem it more proper to submit the case and these observations to the consideration of others, who may be more immediately engaged in tracing out the physiological relations of the nervous system.—*Western Med. Jour.*

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#### OPIUM.

[Continued from page 25.]

I EXPLAINED to you, in my last lecture, the process by which opium, the inspissated juice of the *papaver somniferum*, is obtained, and detailed to you the analysis with which modern chemistry has furnished us. I have now to enter upon the consideration of the effects, both medicinal and toxicological, that are the result of its internal administration, or of its external application to the human body. It is a subject of considerable importance, and embraces a vast number of very interesting points. The greatest difficulty which I have to encounter in its consideration, is to condense the mass of information which is to be collected from the vast number of the most intelligent medical men, and to place before you, in their most striking forms, the more important facts. Among the formulæ which have found a place in our pharmacopœias, all those which contain opium cannot be strictly considered narcotic, though by opium their general effect is produced, but there is a combination of other drugs for the purpose of acting upon some of the organs, or tissues, of the human body specifically; thus, that invaluable compound of opium, sulphate of potash and ipecacuan, to which the name of *pulvis ipecacuanhae compositus*, or Dover's powder, is given, determines to the surface of the body, and increases the perspiration. The powder which contains prepared chaik, bark of cinnamon, the root of tormentilla, gum acacia, long pepper, together with opium, checks diarrhoea, and neutralizes the acid

which has been too largely developed in the stomach. But I have now more particularly to call your attention to those preparations of opium which act primarily as stimulants, and then as soporifics, sedatives, or anodynes, and which are not combined with other remedies. In a vast number of diseases opium is administered in its solid form, in the dose of a single grain, which, by the consent of the greater number of medical men, is acknowledged to be the full dose; you must regulate, however, as I shall have occasion to show you, its quantity according to the various circumstances which may demand either its diminution or its increase. Opium, when macerated in a spirituous fluid, for a sufficient length of time to be completely dissolved, yields to it all its properties, and to this fluid is applied the name of tincture, or of laudanum. This latter appellation was formerly given to opium in its solid state, nor was it applied to the liquid until the time of Sydenham; previous to that the common name was laudanum opiatum, or, simply, laudanum. It is said by Tillingius, in his singular book, entitled, "De Anchora salutis sacra seu de Laudano Opiato, Medicanine isto Divino ac cœlitus demisso," to be so called, because it was laude dignum, vel medicamentum laudatum; but Libavius, one of the old opposers of the chemists, inveighs bitterly against this derivation, which he declares to be a piece of barbaric insolence worthy the madness of Paracelsus. It was likewise called Thebaic by the older writers, from the manufacture of opium at Thebes, in Egypt.

Sydenham was, at an early period of his practice, struck with the difficulties which must always attend the administration of a remedy which demands to be given with minuteness and accuracy, if we can only employ it in a solid form, and he, therefore, was the first to devise a plan by which its virtues could be imparted to a fluid. To him we are, therefore, indebted for the spirituous and vinous preparations which are now generally employed. The formula which he has recommended is still to be found in the greater number of the continental pharmacopœias. The *tinctura opii crocata*, or Sydenhami laudanum, is to be seen in those of Paris, of Denmark, of Poland, of Prussia, and of Holland; and his recipe runs thus: Take of Spanish wine one pint, opium two ounces, saffron an ounce, cinnamon and cloves, of each reduced to powder, one drachm, infuse them together in a bath heat, for two or three days, till the tincture becomes of a due consistence, and, after stirring it, set it off for use. The following are the reasons which he himself offers for the introduction of this preparation:—"I do not, indeed, judge that this preparation is to be preferred to the solid laudanum of the shops, but I give it the preference for its more convenient form, and the greater certainty of dosing it, as it may be dropped into wine, or distilled water, or any other liquor." The preparation ordered by the London College of Physicians, which is most generally employed, has simplified and altered the strength of the tincture, and this improvement took place in consequence of the complaints that appeared in the dispensaries, that, in Sydenham's tincture, "the quantity of the spices was too minute even to flatter the most credulous, who reflect on it with any expectation of the slightest efficacy, the spices not being half a grain to twenty drops. The

mixture of insignificant quantities of spices, or of other irrelative ingredients with the opium, in laudanum, is not only needless, but really injurious, since they conduce to perplex the preparation, and render the proportion less easy to adjust." The consequence of these observations was, that though in the preparation which approximated more nearly to the laudanum of Sydenham, and which is called the wine of opium, but which is "lucus a non lucendo," as it really contains no wine at all, the spices are still to be found, yet our present laudanum, or tincture, is without them, and is, therefore, a much improved and valuable substitute. It is made by macerating, for fourteen days, two ounces and a half of hard opium, bruised, in two pints of proof spirit, and straining the fluid; nineteen minims of this tincture is considered equivalent to one grain of opium.

There is no one remedy in the whole catalogue of the *Materia Medica* that demands greater discrimination and attention in the adjustment of the dose, and its proper administration in the different stages of disease. Even in a state of health, where it is taken to produce its singularly intoxicating influence, its effects are very much to be regulated by the quantity. It often happens, however, that that which would induce in one individual every sensation of felicity that is to be enjoyed on earth, and would invigorate the corporeal and intellectual powers, awakens in another a miserable train of chaotic and tumultuous imagery upon the mind, and, at the same time, produces sensations upon the nervous system that are indescribably miserable. Those who have accustomed themselves to its use can increase the quantity in a most marvellous manner, and can with impunity swallow enough to destroy three lives under ordinary circumstances. Almost every individual who has practised his profession for some time has seen patients take, from being long habituated to its use, enormous quantities of laudanum, or of solid opium, most generally with a view, at least in this country, of mitigating some suffering to which they are liable; but in Turkey, Dr. Smith tells us that the quantity used by the consumers of opium, who seek from it the peculiar excitement it produces, was generally about three drachms; he himself saw a Turk swallow six drachms, and this served only to increase his cheerfulness. It was about this portion that an individual took who has acquired considerable celebrity in this country, from his publication of a little volume which was entitled "The Confessions of an Opium Eater." His ordinary dose was 320 grains; for the first eight years of his indulgence in this habit he took it once only in the week; he chose Saturday night, and his great delight was to attend the Italian Opera whilst under its influence, for he found it to heighten his enjoyment of the music in a most extraordinary degree, or else he sallied forth into the markets of this great metropolis to watch the individuals who throng there on that night to purchase their Sunday's meal, and it afforded him a pleasure of which his description can impart to us but a faint impression. One most extraordinary fact is, that he was able, and that without any considerable effort, to diminish his dose in a most remarkable manner. For three years he had not been content to take 320 grains once in the week, but had taken it daily; but suddenly he descended to 40 grains, so that

where he had taken an equivalent to 8000 drops of laudanum, he contented himself with 1000. About this period a species of suffering overcame him of a very singular kind; all sorts of phantoms presented themselves to him. "At night," says he, "when I lay in bed, vast processions passed along in mournful pomp, friezes of never-ending stories, that to my feelings were as sad and solemn as if they were drawn from times before *AEdipus* or *Priam*, before *Tyre*, before *Memphis*. And at the same time a corresponding change took place in my dreams; a theatre seemed lighted up within my brain which presented nightly spectacles of more than earthly splendor." One sensation which he has described, I myself have felt when obliged to have recourse to opium for the alleviation of pain, and which I have likewise heard others allude to, namely, the singular lengthening out of time, so that a single night appears to have been of years' duration; he speaks as having almost, in one night, passed through a hundred years. Another and more dreadful affliction he describes:—"I seemed every night to descend, not metaphorically, but literally to descend, into chasms and sunless abysses, depths below depths, from which it seemed hopeless that I should ever re-ascend, nor did I, by waking, feel that I had re-ascended. This I do not dwell upon, because the state of gloom which attended these gorgeous spectacles, amounting at last to utter darkness, or to some suicidal despondency, cannot be approached by words." That these are not the imaginary sufferings of a romance writer I am fully persuaded, from the descriptions I have received from individuals of the inconceivable sensations they have experienced from opium; and the many narrations that I have listened to from those on whose truth I can place the firmest reliance, have quite convinced me that the feelings which pervade the system, under its influence, are of a class which might almost be considered supernatural. The astonishing circumstance is that he should have been enabled to diminish his dose without greater suffering from it, for opium eaters generally remark, that if on any occasion they do diminish the usual nocturnal dose, although they may have sound sleep, and apparently pass the night well, yet they are unrefreshed, languid, weakened, dispirited, and without any appetite, and a state of discomfort lasts for several hours; whilst, on the other hand, if they have taken the wonted stimulus, although they may be restless, agitated, and have neither inclination nor power to sleep during the livelong night, yet they rise to their occupations in the morning, fresh, cheerful, hungry, and in good humor with themselves and with the rest of the world. Some individuals fulfil with greater alacrity and vigor the duties of life under this influence; orators, writers, and statesmen, have owed much of their intellectual vigor to this drug.—*Sigmond's Lectures.*

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#### DISEASED BLADDER.

*To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.*

SIR,—The two following cases, illustrative of the results of long-continued inflammation on the bladder, are submitted for insertion in your Journal,

as likely to afford some interest, the first showing a change of structure, with the detachment and expulsion of several polypi from that organ ; the second, as evidencing the successful adoption of a practice which has not hitherto, as far as I can recollect, been had recourse to in similar cases.

For two years past the general health of I. L. aged 57, has been evidently declining, although until six months since no particular affection had been complained of. At that time, while stepping quickly over a rail-fence, he experienced a sensation as of something giving way in the region of the bladder ; from that period he dates much uneasiness above the pubis, and increased frequency in making water ; there was also itching about the glans penis, and the flow of urine was sometimes interrupted. These symptom have gradually become worse, the uneasiness changing to pain, and the desire to urinate occurring more frequently ; the urine turbid. Three weeks since, after very aggravated suffering, a number of fleshy bodies were passed by the urethra, with some muco-purulent matter and urine ; they had been preserved, and were from one half to one inch in length, of a pyriform shape, covered with fine membrane ; the pedicles were small. Since that time, nearly forty of a similar kind have been passed.

The patient has for the last month been confined to bed, and his present condition is as follows. He lies with the lower extremity drawn up, and turns from side to side every ten minutes, anxiously endeavoring to urinate ; the water is passed "guttatim;" he is much emaciated, his countenance wild and indicative of great pain ; pulse, 120 ; tongue covered with a yellowish dry fur ; the functions of the brain little disturbed. As he would not permit the introduction of a catheter, I was obliged to rest satisfied with what information I could derive from pressure. A finger in the rectum and the hand pressed upon the pubis, detected the presence of a large tumor, fleshy, resisting to the feel, evidently the bladder in a state of disorganization.

The person in attendance was not a regular practitioner, nor had any determinate line of treatment been pursued. His opinion was that the kidneys were diseased and were passing away by degrees through the bladder, and that when all had come away, the patient must die. Although the premises were evidently not founded on the most intimate knowledge of anatomy, the state of the parts and the condition of the sufferer left but little doubt of the correctness of the prognosis.

Ten days afterwards I attended a "post-mortem" examination of the body. Nothing worthy remark was noticed either in the stomach or intestinal canal. The liver was gorged with blood, the gall-bladder contained five ounces of bile. The kidneys were smaller and more firm in their texture than natural, but did not show any trace of disease when cut into. The bladder had formed an adhesion to the rectum, and was of a size, to the eye, capable of containing about ten ounces ; on being removed and cut into, the parietes were found thickened to nearly half an inch, and the interior filled with a medullary mass of a dark grey color, partly adherent to the internal surface of the organ, partly of the consistence of custard pudding, mixed with sloughy-looking shreds, some

urine, and four or five of those fleshy bodies already referred to. No trace of the mucous surface remained; in its place a slightly granulated appearance offered itself, with here and there small mamillary projections. There was no fetor.

Some time previous to the date at which I saw the case just detailed, I was called upon to visit a lady aged 60, in a neighboring town, who had for three years suffered from an inability to retain beyond a certain quantity of urine in the bladder. At first there was scalding and pain about the orifice of the urethra and neck of the bladder, but latterly the entire organ seemed to be engaged, the scalding was less, the pain more diffused. For the last nine months the general health has been giving way. Her medical attendant had at different times tried opiates, antispasmodics and diuretics, as the symptoms of the case seemed to require them, with only temporary relief, and she has had recourse to many quack remedies, which have generally aggravated the symptoms. She cannot now retain more than five ounces of urine at a time during the day, and the night is a season of protracted suffering from the constant desire to pass water. What is voided contains white flaky particles floating through it, and soon becomes offensive to the smell. The uterus is in its natural position; there is pain on pressure above the pubis. She has fever, with marked evening exacerbations, and much general irritability of the system. The appetite is morbid, tongue loaded with a moist yellowish fur, bowels irregular, pulse 90. Two grains of calomel, with five of ext. cicutae at night, and a mild saline aperient the next morning, were directed to be taken occasionally. The use of the warm bath, followed by an anodyne enema, was recommended every night, and that a catheter should be worn constantly. Perfect rest and a low diet were enjoined.

At my next visit I found the symptoms much less urgent. The catheter, by conveying away the urine as soon as secreted, removed one source of irritation, while the action of the medicine and the use of the bath, by restoring a more healthy action to the mucous surfaces and skin, had lessened the amount of fever, but the state of the parts was the same. Withdrawing the means recommended, even for a night, marked this strongly by the increased suffering it induced. A sound in the bladder could not detect the presence of any foreign body there. It was contracted, its walls thickened, but, except the floating particles which still continued to be washed away could be looked upon as such, there was no evidence of disorganization.

The result of I. L.'s case, which occurred about this time, directed my attention more particularly to the subject. If in my patient's case disorganization *had* commenced, although the morbid growths might not be the same, still its effects on her health and life could not be different. If it *had not* commenced, it was on the direct way, unless some more decided plan should be adopted to check its progress. That hitherto recommended had been merely palliative. General or local bloodletting could now have little if any beneficial effect on the disease, and was likely to do harm by their debilitating effects on the general health. A fair trial had been given to the use of medicines. Pain had, and might still continue to be relieved by them, or an increased quantity of urine

poured into the bladder, but neither were likely to alter the state of the parts. Another line of proceeding offered itself. Could I by direct means alter the condition of the bladder, and by so doing put off, if not altogether prevent, the threatened mischief? In the thickening and contraction which for a longer or shorter period precedes that disorganization of the rectum termed cancerous, I had often experienced the happy effects of mechanical dilatation perseveringly used; and even when the change had in a degree taken place, I was satisfied life had been prolonged and its termination rendered less painful by its means. The beneficial operation also of the same remedy in situations where, *prima facie*, its application would seem likely to be productive only of pain or worse consequences, determined me in trying its effects on the case in question. On the part of my patient it was willingly submitted to.

The bladder being emptied, six ounces of tepid water were injected by means of a strong gum elastic bag, furnished with a stop cock. Excessive pain, accompanied with chills, was the immediate effect, and obliged me to withdraw the injection after a few minutes. The patient was placed in a warm bath, and a pill containing gr. ss. of acet. morphia was given to her on returning to bed. For eight or ten successive nights the same effects, but in a lessened degree, were produced. From that time I was gradually enabled to increase the quantity of fluid, until at the end of a month 12 oz. could be injected and retained for 20 minutes. A warm hip bath was used every night after the injection, and the pill of acet. morphia continued. The diet and secretions were strictly attended to.

Six months have now elapsed since this treatment was adopted, and my patient enjoys better health than falls to the lot of many at her time of life. She is only occasionally obliged to get up in the night, and would almost forget that anything had been the matter, if I would permit her to leave off the use of her injections, the only part of the treatment which I think it advisable to continue.

There are few of the maladies to which the body is liable that offer to the medical man a greater variety of symptoms and changes, or a more numerous progeny of secondary diseases, than what has been termed chronic inflammation of the mucous surfaces. The acute form has certain marked symptoms, and is in a great degree under the control of decided measures promptly pursued; but the diagnosis of the chronic condition is uncertain, its treatment unsatisfactory. Neither of the cases related seem at any time to have been the subjects of any acute inflammation, but rather of the subacute and chronic form, and it unfortunately happens that to the majority of such the practitioner is not called until not only thickening and contraction of the parts have occurred, but sometimes even disorganization to a certain extent. In the first case the general health had been declining for a length of time, and the local affections no doubt also existed, for there was *frequency* of making water; but until the detachment of one of the morbid growths, no particular attention was paid to it. In the second it was only directed in consequence of the inflammation in the first instance being seated about the neck of the bladder. Repeated leeching, our sheet anchor at the commencement

of such affections, is not a means often offered a country practitioner, and the host of remedies usually prescribed have little or no influence in checking the progress to disease.

The principle of dilatation is universally recognized with a view to change that thickening and contraction consequent on long-continued inflammatory action of certain mucous surfaces, and is acted upon where the situation of the parts will permit its use. I trust the future experience of my professional brethren on the subject, will bear me out in the hope, the result of the last case has led me to entertain, that the same principle may with advantage be extended to those chronic affections of the bladder, which, under a host of names, but referable to the long-continued action of one cause, are such a source of protracted misery and suffering to many.

E. E. DENNISTON.

*Northampton, Feb. 18th, 1837.*

#### REMARKS ON ITINERANTS.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

##### NO. V.—ITINERANTS TRUMPET THEIR OWN FAME.

IT is said in the bible, that charity vaunteth not itself. It might with equal propriety be said that merit vaunteth not itself. If the bible says not this of the latter, common report says so, common sense says so, and every man's better judgment says so. All persons, whatever they think of it in themselves, dislike, disrespect and abominate, in ordinary cases, a vaunting disposition in others. The dandy that would palm himself off for a Beau Nash or a Chesterfield, is not, even by birds of his own feather, any more respected for his important airs. The bully, prating so loudly, smiting his fists, and pledging himself to beat the soul-case out of you, shrinks from a determined air, and is far from being what he pretends to be. The braggadocio, of every kind, is the exact antipodes of what he rates himself.

All but the boastful Itinerant—he who without any previous knowledge of the science he affects to understand, pretends to cure all kinds of diseases—are considered, when they trumpet their own fame, the reverse of what they would have people think of them. The Itinerant may speak of his infallibles, tell you of his million and one cures, name over the cases he has cured which were given over by other doctors, and nobody thinks any the worse of him. If he announces himself under one of, perhaps, half a dozen names—no matter where he was born, who his father was, or what his endowments were—patients cluster around him, like flies to the putrescent effluvia.

I have before me a newspaper, containing three columns of advertisements, which match well with the doctors of whom I am now speaking. Anties in staring capitals, with high-sounding, but otherwise inapplicable names, protrude themselves upon the reader's notice. The whole catalogue of human maladies, and, to make the list more imposing, twice told,

but by different names, present themselves in these advertisements. Though ever so opposite in their natures, and ever so incurable, according to experienced physicians, they are all cured by these nostrums. To establish their credit beyond a doubt, certificates from M.D.'s, Excellencies, Right Honorable, and Reverends, are appended, who perhaps never saw the medicines, and if they had, would have seen them burning in Vesuvius ere they would prostitute their names for the benefit of so debased a cause.

Let us single out a specimen or two, from the almost endless list of highly applauded nostrums of the times. It is but a few years since the celebrated Swaim's Panacea was all the toast, and thought as much of as the idol of Juggernaut by its infatuated worshippers. When this was most in vogue—for nostrums, like other things, have their ups and downs, their rise in the estimation of the community, their meridian glory, and their downfall—it was in such high repute that it sold for any price, and its inventor attained a princely fortune. It is said that he is the richest man in America, and that his net gains were ten millions of dollars. This was from a medicine which, if its merits and demerits had been weighed in a balance, the latter would have quickly preponderated. Were the names of those who were benefited by it, and those who were driven to an untimely end, written in a book, the former would make but a penny pamphlet, while the latter would swell into portly folios.

Next in point of celebrity, may be mentioned the ever-to-be-remembered Hygeian, or Morison's Pills. The mania in regard to these, was as great as that of the alchymists in endeavoring to turn the baser metals into gold, that of the South Sea Bubble, or of the Eastern Land Speculation. Never, since the abridgment of the days of man at the Deluge, was long life and uninterrupted health more doated upon than during the time when these pills triumphed so powerfully over men's reasoning faculties. The demands for them were so great, that the former slow method of making pills by manual labor was laid aside, and machinery was introduced as a substitute. I know not as steam power was called into operation, but pill-making companies were formed, and extensive employment was afforded in various places. Not only pill-boxes filled with the precious catholicon, commanding enormous prices, were sent in every direction, but barrels, and even hogsheads, were likewise sent. Riders were sent out, and agencies established everywhere. Would that we could be made to perceive the ravages this nostrum has made of health, and the havoc of human life. It would afford an excellent lesson for people not to catch at every bate, and not to be allured to destruction by persons who seek only their own benefit. Money is enticing, and when it can be obtained by whistling for it, anybody would put himself in readiness to lay his hand upon it. Where it can be called in cart-loads—in such abundance as to amount to ten millions in half a dozen years, as was the case in the present instance—many persons would not be scrupulous about the means. Anything that would set people beside themselves would be employed. "Get money," said an Eastern Prince to his children, as he was bidding them farewell upon his death-bed. "Get it honestly if you can, but at any rate get money."

Many other persons have the same desires. They would choose to get it honestly if they could, but they are determined to get it in some way.  
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## BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL

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BOSTON, MARCH, 1, 1837.

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### FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE STATE LUNATIC HOSPITAL.

FINDING ourselves anticipated in several of the public papers, in which abstracts from this interesting and truly valuable document were given soon after its distribution among the members of the legislature, a notice of it in this place has been deferred, from one week to another, with the expectation of obtaining the doings of the General Court in relation to the calls made upon the Commonwealth, both by the Superintendent and Commissioners, for further assistance. From that portion which emanates from the Trustees, submitted to the Governor and Council, it appears that :—

"The whole number of patients received into the hospital since its establishment is 510; that the whole number which have been in the hospital during the past year is 244; 125 of these having been received during the year, and the remainder continued from former years. Of these 125, 117 were committed by the courts, leaving only 8 private patients received during the year. 106 have been discharged during the year, leaving 138 in the hospital at the end of the year. Of the 106 who have been discharged, 57 were cured, 15 improved, 8 have died, and 24 were discharged by the Trustees for want of room, under the provisions of the statute.

Of the patients cured, the proportion of recent cases, that is, of less than one year's duration, has been 84 and 1-5 per cent.; while of those of longer duration the proportion has been only 18 and 2-3 per cent. including those discharged for want of room, as all of the latter, with a single exception, should be put down in the class of incurables. Of those who remained at the end of the year, 11 only were recent cases, while 54 of this description had been received during the year, and these 11 are considered by the Superintendent as curable. A more extended view of this branch of our subject will show that of the 161 cases of less than one year's duration admitted into the hospital since its establishment, 132 have been and 11 more probably will be cured, 10 have died, six have been removed before the effect of the remedies applied had been sufficiently tested, and only two have been left to become old cases. It further appears that in the older cases, varying from one to thirty years and upwards, the chance of cure is nearly in an inverse ratio to the duration of the disease.

It further appears, as far as can be ascertained from the examination of the books of the Institution, that of the whole number of patients admitted to the hospital, there have been supported by themselves or friends, 251; males 139, females, 112. Supported by the towns, 179; males, 106, females, 73. State paupers, 73; foreigners, 52, from other States,

21. Satisfactory evidence of the birth and former residence of the remaining seven could not be ascertained.

An abstract of the report of the justly celebrated Esquirol, of the royal institution of Charenton, near Paris, contains the following particulars. The results are the more interesting, as this excellent public charity is of a character nearly resembling the State Lunatic Hospital of Massachusetts. The report is for the eight years next preceding the year 1834.

Esquirol found in the hospital at the commencement of the period above mentioned, 492 patients. Admitted during the eight years, 1557, making 2049. Of this number, 518 recovered; 546 died; 514 discharged not cured; and 471 remained. He makes his estimates of cured on the admissions during the eight years, viz.: 1557. The number of cures 518, is about 33 1-3 per cent. Estimate of deaths on the whole number, 2049. 546 deaths are 26 1-2 per cent.

The State Lunatic Hospital has received 510 patients. It has had 28 deaths, which is 5 1-2 per cent. It has discharged 372. Its estimate of cures is upon the discharged, about 53 1-2 per cent.

If the estimate of cures in the French Hospital were made in the same manner, it would not, as will be perceived, materially alter the percentage.

Esquirol's recoveries of the whole number in that Institution, including incurables, is 25 1-4 per cent. or 518 of 2049. The recoveries in the State Lunatic Hospital of all the patients, is 38 4-5 per cent., viz. 198 of 510.

Both Institutions contain a large proportion of incurables."

Were it possible to republish in the Journal the tabular statements of Dr. Woodward, every reader would be convinced of the unrewarded exertions of that officer, and of his peculiar fitness to manage an institution like the one confided to his care. From these statements it appears that of the patients who have been admitted, 283 were single, 173 married, 30 widows, and 24 widowers. Of those under 20 years of age, there have been 58; 27 males, 31 females. From 20 to 30, 155; 91 males, 64 females. From 30 to 40, 125; 75 males, 50 females. From 40 to 50, 56; 28 males, 28 females. From 50 to 60, 32; 19 males, 13 females. From 60 to 70, 7; 6 males, 1 female. From 70 to 80, 3 males. Unknown, 24; 15 males, 9 females.

Following these, Dr. Woodward has appended a series of facts and practical observations, deserving the close attention of physicians as well as philanthropists and statesmen. His reasonings upon the subject of religious instruction, and its happy influence on the distracted mind, are calculated to enlist the highest sympathies of our nature. Leaving the report for the present, with an expectation of again resuming it, we cannot refrain from expressing a hope that a sufficient number of copies have been published to meet the demands of the public in this and other States.

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#### COLONY LAWS RESPECTING THE PRACTICE OF PHYSIC.

OUR forefathers had a wise and parental solicitude for the physical as well as moral welfare of the people, and very early, therefore, after the organization of the Government of Massachusetts Bay, so called, established certain regulations in regard to the practice of physic and its col-

lateral branches, calculated to give respectability to the profession, and at the same time keep pretenders beyond the confines of their jurisdiction. Were the law now in force, which follows below, its practical operation would be far better than all the multiform wherewofls, wherebys, &c. which, though called improvements, are but innovations, full of loop-holes for empirics to escape the penalties intended to have been meted out to them.

"Forasmuch as the law of God allows no man to impair the life or limbs of any person, but in a judicial way :—it is therefore ordered, that no person or persons, whatever, employed at any time about the bodies of men, women, or children, for preservation of life or health, as chirurgions, midwives, physicians, or others, presume to exercise or put forth any act contrary to the known approved rules of art, in each mystery and occupation, nor exercise any force, violence, or cruelty, upon or towards the body of any, whether young or old (no not in the most difficult and desperate cases), without the advice and consent of such as are skilled in the same art (if such may be had), or at least of some of the wisest and gravest then present, and consent of the patient or patients, if they be *medis complices*, much less contrary to such advice and consent ; upon such severe punishment as the nature of the fact may deserve. Which law, nevertheless, is not intended to discourage any from all lawful use of their skill, but rather to encourage and direct them in the right use thereof, and inhibit and restrain the presumptuous arrogance of such as, through perfidience of their own skill or any other sinister respects, dare boldly attempt to exercise any violence upon or towards the bodies of young or old, one or another, to the prejudice or hazard of the life or limb of man, woman or child." 1649.

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*Boylston Medical Society.*—The usual annual prizes have been awarded as follows. The first prize to the dissertation entitled "The Numerical System," by William Williamson Wellington, A.B. The second, to the dissertation entitled "Scarlatina," by Alvan Smith. The gentlemen composing the prize committee were Drs. Strong, Morell, and Storer.

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*Average length of Life among Seamen.*—The following table was constructed by the venerable Col. Turner, steward of Chelsea Hospital.

Deaths in Marine Hospital from Oct. 1, 1827, to Dec. 31, 1836, 244, viz.

Under 20 years,	13	being 1 in 29
From 20 to 30	103	1 2 1-3
30	40	69 1 3 1-2
40	50	39 1 6 2-5
50	60	13 1 19
Above 60		7 1 35

The average length of seamen's lives, according to the above table, is thirty-two years, five and a half months.

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*Medical Miscellany.*—The cholera swept off 4777 in the city of Naples, in November last.—Much trouble has lately been on the tapis at St. Thomas's Hospital. The students of Guy's crowded themselves, sans

ceremonie, into the operating room of the former institution, which obliged the surgeons to postpone two cases of lithotomy, which were ready for operation, and the uproarious rioters, in the end, were all arrested.—Florida Keys are strongly recommended to invalids, instead of Italy.—Dr. Bedford's lectures on the diseases of women and children, the present winter, in New York, are much praised.—The Lying-in Hospital, Washington street, has received another donation of five hundred dollars.—A spirited meeting of the Counsellors of the Massachusetts Medical Society was held last week, at the Athenæum.—A movement is said to be on foot to recall the doings of the legislature in relation to the powers recently granted to the Berkshire Medical Institution, by which degrees were to be given independently of any college.—The plague, says the last Smyrna advices, had appeared at Scio : at Vourla a few cases had occurred ; but at Constantinople it had greatly diminished.—Alexandria, in Egypt, is represented to have been unusually sickly in November.—The cholera has made its way into the Ionian Islands, but divested of its worst features.—Professed bonesetters are so numerous in all the cities in this country, that foreigners seem to imagine that there is an atmospheric tendency to a general dislocation of the joints among us.—Dentists are abandoning gold pivots for artificial teeth, and substitute wooden dowels, which, by swelling in the cavity of the stump, make the work fit better and secure the new teeth much more firmly than metallic pins.—Dr. Lewis is engaged in dissecting two dromedaries, recently belonging to the Union street menagerie.—A case of smallpox has occurred at Bolton and another at Lowell ; a case also exists at Amherst, N. H.—By a regulation of the Board of Aldermen, by the request of the Medical Association, sextons are obliged to obtain from a physician the cause of death of those whom they are called upon to bury : this will give a correctness, it is supposed, to the future bills of mortality in Boston.—Surgical instruments brought to light by excavations in the ruins of Pompeii, proves, beyond contradiction, that, although manufactured almost eighteen hundred years ago, they are quite as good and convenient as those of recent London fabrication.—*Living on small means*, the title of an ephemeral, of the dimensions of a blister plaster, is denounced—for teaching only how to exist.—Dr. Parker, having completed his lectures at Cincinnati, has sailed for Europe—to return in six months.—Gum elastic ear trumpets are found to be miserable substitutes: the old-fashioned metallic ones are far better for reflecting and reverberating sonorous rays, although very poor things.—A lunatic in the State Hospital at Worcester considers himself the maker of all things.—A republication of the Boston fee-hill is called for. It is so long since it was printed that new members of the Medical Association are not well acquainted with the rules for charging.—Dr. Bowditch's translation of Louis is constantly gaining friends.—Dr. Littell's recent work on diseases of the eye meets with general approbation. He would do well in preparing another distinctly on surgical operations of the same organ.

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To CORRESPONDENTS.—Dr. Jewett's case of Bronchotomy, Questions to the author of the Remarks on Itinerants, and Dr. J. M. Warren's report of a surgical operation, besides various other favors, are on file.

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Whole number of deaths in Boston for the week ending February 25, 29. Males, 13—females, 15.  
Consumption, 2—hooping cough, 1—fits, 4—infantile, 2—apoplexy, 2—croup, 1—throat distemper,  
2—child bed, 1—lung fever, 3—sudden, 1—bursting bloodvessel, 1—disease of the brain, 1—pleu-  
risy, 1—inflammation of the bowels, 1—brain fever, 1—wounds, 1—stillborn, 1.

**VERMONT MEDICAL COLLEGE, AT WOODSTOCK, VT.**

CONNECTED WITH MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE.

(Incorporated by the Legislature of Vermont, October, 1835, with the power of conferring degrees.

The Annual Course of Lectures at this Institution will commence on the second Thursday of March next, and continue thirteen weeks.

H. H. CHILDS, M.D.	- - - - -	Theory and Practice of Medicine and Obstetrics.
GILMAN KIMBALL, M.D.	- - - - -	Physiology and Surgery.
DAVID PALMER, M.D.	- - - - -	Chemistry and Materia Medica.
ROBERT WATTS, JR. M.D.	- - - - -	Anatomy.
NORMAN WILLIAMS, A.M.	- - - - -	Medical Jurisprudence.
D. C. PERRY, M.D.	- - - - -	Demonstrations in Anatomy.

The usual number of Lectures will be five, daily—besides the Demonstrations in Anatomy, and occasional evening examinations.

Considerable additions are now making to the Chemical apparatus; and opportunities will be furnished to students for practical anatomy, arrangements for that purpose having been made last year in the city of New York.

(No subject for dissection will be received from any person, or on any terms.

Fees for the course, \$45. Graduation, \$18. For those who have attended two courses, but do not graduate, \$10. All the above expenses to be paid in advance, or secured by note, with a satisfactor endorser, to David Pierce, Esq., Treasurer of the Institution. Board is usually furnished at \$2 per week, including room, wood, lights, and washing.

Students are requested to come provided with two or more standard works on each of the above designated branches of study.

Degrees will be conferred at the close of the lecture term.

Examinations will be conducted by the Medical Faculty, in presence of a delegation from the College, and a committee appointed by the Justices of the Supreme Court, pursuant to the provisions of the act of incorporation.—Requisites to an examination are, that the student produce satisfactory testimonials of moral character, and of his having studied three years with a regular practitioner; that he shall have attended two courses of public Lectures, one of which must have been at this institution; and that he shall have attained the age of 21 years. For particulars relating to private instruction, students are referred to the annual catalogues of the School.

By order of the Trustees,

NORMAN WILLIAMS, Secretary.

NOTE.—The Annual Course of Lectures at the Berkshire Medical Institution commences the last Thursday of August, at Pittsfield, Mass., and continues thirteen weeks.—Fees for the Course, \$50. Feb. 14—1M9

**A BARGAIN.**

A PHYSICIAN in the County of Kennebeck (Maine), wishing to leave the State, would dispose of his situation on the most reasonable terms. It is an eligible stand for business, and offers a rare opportunity for any young gentleman wishing to engage in the practice of medicine. For further information, inquire at this office—if by letter, post paid.

Feb. 1.

tf

**TO MEDICAL STUDENTS.**

H. A. DEWAR, M.D. intends forming a class for the study of Dentistry, in every branch. The number will be limited, and each student will have an opportunity of becoming practically acquainted with all the operations and manipulations requisite. Dr. D. has provided a large and commodious work-room for their exclusive use. Further particulars may be learned by calling on Dr. Dewar, No. 1 Montgomery Place.

tf—Oct. 19

Boston, Oct. 7, 1836.

**TO MEDICAL STUDENTS.**

The undersigned are associated for the purpose of instructing in all the branches of Medicine and Surgery. A suitable room will be provided, and pupils will have the use of an extensive medical library, opportunities for seeing the practice of one of the districts of the Dispensary and of the Eye and Ear Infirmary, and of attending a course of lectures on the diseases of the eye.

A regular course of recitations and examinations will include all the required professional works.

Anatomical instruction and private dissection will form a prominent part in the study of the pupils. For further information, apply to either of the subscribers.

JOHN JEFFRIES, M.D.

R. W. HOOFER, M.D.

JOHN H. DIX, M.D.

Franklin Street, Nov. 9, 1836.

N16—tf

**VACCINE VIRUS.**

PHYSICIANS in any part of the United States may hereafter be furnished with pure vaccine virus, by addressing the editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal—inclusing one dollar. Letters must be post-paid, or they will not be taken from the Post Office. The virus will invariably be sent by the first mail, unless some other mode of conveyance is directed. Ten charged quills, an ample quantity for meeting any sudden emergency, and certainly sufficient to propagate a supply from, will be securely packed in a letter. The gentleman who has undertaken to keep the virus, will faithfully supply that which is positively genuine and recently taken. It will also be furnished on application at the Medical Journal office.

THE BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL is published every Wednesday, by D. CLAPP, JR. at 181 Washington Street, corner of Franklin Street, to whom all communications must be addressed, post-paid. It is also published in Monthly Parts, each Part containing the weekly numbers of the preceding month, stitched in a cover. J. V. C. SMITH, M.D. Editor.—Price \$3.00 a year in advance, \$3.50 after three months, and \$4.00 if not paid within the year.—Agents allowed every seventh copy gratis.—Orders from a distance must be accompanied by payment in advance, or satisfactory reference.—Postage the same as for a newspaper.